

In re Patent Application of:

KRAUS et al.

Serial No. **10/032,435**

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first, second, and third points to the dimension of the circle, wherein adjusting comprises the steps of:

maintaining the first point at the edge of the circle; and

longitudinally extending the extendable member to laterally extend the flexible members so that the passageways of the flexible members are aligned with the second point at the edge of the circle and the third point at the edge of the circle.

3. A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising adjusting the spatial relationship between the first, second, and third points to the dimension of the circle, wherein adjusting comprises the steps of:

maintaining the first point at the edge of the circle; and

engaging an adjust knob on the extendable member to longitudinally extend the extendable member and laterally extend the flexible members so that the passageways of the flexible members are aligned with the second point at the edge of the circle and the third point at the edge of the circle.

4. An apparatus for locating a center of a circle, said apparatus comprising:

a first component comprising a portion to be aligned with an edge of the circle to thereby define a first point;

a second component that engages said first component, said second component being defined as an extendable member having a pair of opposing flexible portions connected thereto, each flexible portion having a circle edge locator defined by a passageway formed through an end portion thereof, and a circle center indicator defined by a passageway

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formed through an end of the extendable member, the circle center indicator being positioned at the center of the circle when the circle edge locators and the portion of the first component are aligned with the respective edges of the circle.

5. An apparatus in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said second component further comprises an adjust knob to laterally move the extendable member to position the circle center indicator at the center of a given circle within a range of circle sizes when the circle edge locators are moved to the edge of said given circle within the same said range of circle sizes.

6. An apparatus in accordance with Claim 4 wherein the portion of said first component that defines the first point is a pivot post to be maintained at an edge of the circle while the extendable member is longitudinally moved to thereby laterally move flexible members and align the circle edge locators with respective edges of the circle so that the circle center indicator is positioned at the center of the circle when the pivot post and circle edge locators are at edges of the circle.

7. An apparatus in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said first component is a base member, and wherein said extendable member slidably engages said base member.

8. An apparatus in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said base member has a longitudinal cavity and a pair of opposing lateral cavities.

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9. An apparatus in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said lateral cavities extend outwardly from said longitudinal cavity at an angle of about 60 degrees.

10. An apparatus in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said extendable member further comprises an adjust knob connected thereto.

11. An apparatus in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said pivot post engages a longitudinally extending passageway formed through said extendable member.

12. An apparatus in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said flexible portions are at least one of a spring and elastomeric material.

13. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the pivot post has a passageway formed therethrough.

14. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the pivot post remains stationary when the extendable member is extended.

15. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the opposing members move laterally responsive to longitudinal movement of the extendable member.

16. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein each opposing member is defined by at least one of a flexible member and a rotatable member.

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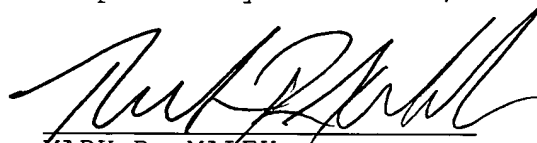
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17. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the circle edge locators have passageways formed therethrough.

Respectfully submitted,



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